

extending outward to hold the cable.” The Office Action then concluded that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kim (or Weimer) with Isayama for the benefit of having a lightweight, safe fastener for stringing cable (abstract).”

However, independent claim 1 recites “a tub protection bolt for a washing machine comprising: a screwed shaft configured to penetrate a cabinet of the washing machine to be coupled with a boss of a tub; and a head part at one end of the screwed shaft having a narrow cut-away portion configured to hold a power cable of the washing machine” (emphasis added). Independent claim 10 recites “a washing machine, comprising... a protection bolt comprising: a screwed shaft configured to penetrate the cabinet to be coupled with the at least one boss of the tub; and a head part at one end of the screwed shaft having a narrow cut-away portion configured to hold a power cable” (emphasis added).

In contrast, Isayama discloses a fastener made up of a pair of clamping members 1a, 1b that clamp cords therebetween. The clamping members 1a, 1b include a bolt hole 2 which passes through the clamping member 1a, 1b. A bolt 3 is inserted in the bolt hole 2 and a nut 4 tightens the clamping members 1a, 1b in opposing directions. Thus, Isayama at least does not disclose or suggest a tub protection bolt comprising a head part at one end of the screwed shaft having a cut-away portion configured to hold a power cable of a washing machine, as recited in independent claim 1. That is, the clamp members 1a, 1b disclosed by Isayama are not part of the bolt 3, but rather include the bolt hole 2 through which the bolt 3 passes. Further, the bolt 3 along with nut 4 are provided to tighten the clamping members 1a, 1b. Accordingly, Isayama

does not disclose or suggest all of the claimed features, or the respective claimed combination of independent claim 1. Independent claim 10 is similarly allowable over Isayama.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 over Kim or Weimer and Isayama should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-8 and 11-17 are allowable over Kim or Weimer and Isayama at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 10, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim or Weimer and Isayama, and further in view of Ory, U.S. Patent No. 4,624,117. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 9 and 18 are allowable over Kim or Weimer and Isayama at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 10, from which respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Ory fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kim or Weimer and Isayama, as Ory is merely cited for allegedly disclosing a protrusion attached to a power cable. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 9 and 18 over Kim or Weimer, Isayama, and Ory should be withdrawn.

The Office Action provisionally rejected claims 1-8 and 10-17 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/433,159 in view of Isayama. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, Isayama fails to disclose or suggest the claimed head part recited in independent claims 1 and 10 as asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, the proposed

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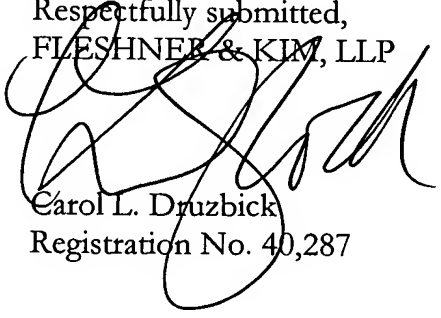
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combination fails to disclose or suggest all the claimed features, or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 2-8 and 11-17 are allowable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/433,159 and Isayama at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 10 from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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